

ASSAILS LOOSE TALK OF U.S. SPY SECRETS

Rep. Mahon Demands Tighter Security

By Chicago Tribune Press Service

Washington, March 7 — The chairman of the House defense appropriations committee demanded today a halt be put to loose talk about spy secrets by headline hunters.

"Officials in Moscow, Peking, and Havana must applaud our stupidity in announcing publicly facts which they would gladly spend huge sums of money endeavoring to obtain," said Rep. George Mahon [D., Tex.].

He pleaded in a speech to the House that the President, the Vice President, and Speaker John McCormack [D., Mass.] join to end "the outrageous and intolerable erosion of our national intelligence effort."

"Excess of Talk"

Too many people in Congress, the White House, and other government agencies have been talking publicly "about matters which should only be discussed behind closed doors," Mahon said. They are daily "revealing the secrets" of government intelligence operations, he said.

"In recent weeks there has been a great excess of talk about the procedures of our intelligence apparatus," Mahon reported. "Critics have made public statements on matters which should never be discussed in public. The administration has mistakenly allowed itself to be goaded into revealing information detrimental to our best interests."

Like a great many other Americans, Mahon said, "I am tired of these demonstrations of bad judgment."

Wants Special Unit

"Every day some high ranking intelligence officer is quoted in the newspapers of some subject or another. These are men who should be neither seen nor heard. Members of both the legislative and executive branches have publicly discussed matters which should only be discussed behind closed doors. Headlines are not so precious as to warrant jeopardizing our national security," he said.

Rep. Paul Rogers [D., Fla.] announced acceleration of his campaign to create a joint committee of Congress to act as a "watchdog" over the intelligence activities agency. He said the proper place to coordinate the work of the CIA with the intelligence activities of the state and defense departments is behind closed doors, not on the floors of Congress. Like Mahon, he said it has had too much public discussion.